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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| Application Number | 10/650,338 |
| Filing Date | August 27, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Yusuke Hirakawa |
| Art Unit | 2171 |
| Examiner Name | J.E. Breene |
| Attorney Docket Number | 16869P-090100US |

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
 - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
 - ☐ After Final
 - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☒ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
 - ☐ Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
 - ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation
- ☐ Change of Correspondence Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) _____
- ☐ Landscape Table on CD

- ☐ After Allowance Communication to TC
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
USPTO form SB08A (one page), copy of Search Report for EP04252258, copy of one cited foreign patent reference, Return Postcard

Remarks The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Firm Name | Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP |
| Signature | |
| Printed name | Steve Y. Cho |
| Date | 3/21/05 |

Reg. No. 44,612

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

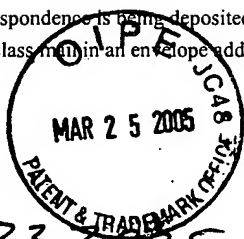
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Date 3/23/05

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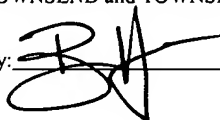


PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 16869P-090100US
Client Reference No.: 340300933US1

On MARCH 23, 2005

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By:


Roger HyLTON

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Yusuke Hirakawa

Application No.: 10/650,338

Filed: August 27, 2003

For: STORAGE SYSTEM

Examiner: J.E. Breene

Art Unit: 2171

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37
CFR §1.97 and §1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A are being called to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the cited foreign-patent reference is enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Also enclosed is a copy of the European Search Report for the corresponding European application EP04252258.

As provided for by 37 CFR §1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

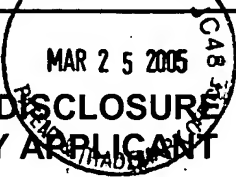
Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Y. Cho
Reg. No. 44,612

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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | |  | | Complete if Known | | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | Application Number | | 10/650,338 | | |
| | | Filing Date | | August 27, 2003 | | |
| | | First Named Inventor | | Yusuke Hirakawa | | |
| | | Art Unit | | 2171 | | |
| | | Examiner Name | | J.E. Breene | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | | 16869P-090100US |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS+ | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | 1 | US-6,496,908 | 12-17-2002 | Kamvysselis et al. | |
| | 2 | US-6,467,034 | 10-15-2002 | Yanaka | |
| | 3 | US-6,622,152 | 09-16-2003 | Sinn et al. | |
| | | | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | 4 | EP | 0902370 | A | 03-17-1999 | Hitachi Ltd. | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | | | | | |

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|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Kind Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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